(b) The maximum amount of assistance given to each Madarsa is as follows:—

(i) Salary of one teacher @ Rs. 2200/- p.m.

(ii) Assistance for purchase of Science/Maths Kits—Rs. 4,000/- one time grant. The grant is annual for the Eighth Five Year Plan only.

Hike in prices of paper

4936. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent and steep hike in prices of paper has made books and notebooks costlier for students;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of hike in price of paper, the quality of paper used in note books deteriorated and many books disappeared from the markets and their reprint rendered difficult;

(c) whether Government have gone into the causes of the steep hike in prices of papers; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ease the position at least for the student community?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) As per study conducted by NCERT by and large presently there is no/marginal increase in the price of textbooks published by NCERT/ State Governments, though some increase in prices of books published privately has been observed .

(c) nd (d) Ministry of Industry have informed that price of paper have increased on account of rise in cost of coal, power, caustic soda, imported pulp and other raw materials. There is no statutory control over price of paper. Prices are determined by market forces. However, Government is keeping watch over the situation for safeguarding the interests of students.

Women benefited from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh in Gujarat

4937. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women benefited and the number of organisations to whom loans have been given from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh in Gujarat State during 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have plan to increase the activities of the Kosh in the years so as to cover more women during the Eighth Plan Period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) Rashtriya Mahla Kosh has not extended credit limit to any organisation in Gujarat during 1994-95.

(b) and (c) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has planned to cover about 2 lakhs poor women beneficiaries below the poverty line during the first six years.

For increasing its activities, Rashtrya Mahila Kosh had organised 20 workshops/exposure training programmes all over the country to spread awareness on the Rashtriya

Mahila Kosh Scheme. Publicity literature on the Kosh has been sent to District Magistates of all the districts in the country for giving wide publicity to the scheme. For effective transmission of its message of different parts of the country, Rashtriya Mahila Kosn has undertaken the task of publishing its lending guidelines in 11 different regonal languages.

Articles regarding Rashtriya Mahila Kosh's activities have appeared in leading journals like 'Kurukshetra', Yojana, 'Samaj Kalyan' and 'Social Welfae' having wide circulation amongst NGOs. Leading newspapers have also given publicity to the Rashtriya Mahila Scheme.

The Kosh has introduced the following schemes to assist the smaller NGOs and extend its out reach to them:—

I. Umbrella organisation Scheme:

II. Pilot Scheme for financing NGOs which are not having the requisite experience of 3 years;

III. Scheme for providing financial support to NGOs for development of Self Help Groups.

Targets of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

4938. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has been able to achieve its targets with regard to sanctions, disbursements and recoveries etc.; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has sanctioned credit limits to 53 NGOs to cover 62,322 women in the first two years i.e. 1993-94 and 1994-95 against a target covering 2 lakh women beneficiaries during the first six years of its operations.

In terms of financial performance, the Kosh has, during 1993-94 and 1994-95, sanctioned Rs. 9.59 crores and disbursed Rs. 5.70 crores. In terms of recovery, as against total dues of Rs. 1.60 crores, a sum of Rs. 1.54 crores has been recovered. The percentage of recovery comes to around 96 per cent.

Smuggling of Antiques

4939. SHRI GUNDAPPA: KORWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether priceless sandstone antiques dating back to 9th and 10th century had been seized from a smuggler recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of antiques; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five stone sculptures were seized by Delhi Police on 14-12-94 and all the five sculptures have been declared as antiquities by Director General, Archaeological Survey of India. These sculptures have to be evaluated by a Committee of Experts to be convened by Police authorities.

(c) Steps have been taken to check the theft and smuggling of antiqui-